RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

June, 1993

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

THE NEW CHAIR: Part Deux

Well, it's summer now. Memorial Weekend is now history. But things don't stop because of balmy weather. So let's get together and continue to improve our neighborhood. Russell, our vice-chair and I have scheduled **June 26th as our neighborhood clean-up day**. On Friday, June 25th, four dumpsters will be delivered and placed on Hobson Street, South Street, Franklin Street and Ferry Street, near the corner of Ogden Avenue. Please use these dumpsters to clean up your yard and house of materials not ordinarily picked up on garbage collection days. But remember, no commercial trash. This year the dumpsters have to be allocated within the expanded boundaries of our Association, so not every street was able to get a dumpster. The Incinerator Authority supplies these dumpsters for free.

The purpose of the June 26th clean-up is to clean Palisade Avenue from Cuneo Place to Congress Street, including Wood Place and Ferry Street. Riverview-Fiske Park will also be cleaned. We will meet 9:00 AM at the Park and split the volunteer group in half, working our way along the Avenue back to the Park. Brooms, shovels, work gloves and plastic bags will be provided by the Incinerator Authority. We will award 24 RNA T-shirts to kids involved in the clean-up. Free lunch will be provided at the end of the job. We estimate the project will take approximately three hours.

Please make an effort to join us and set an example for the rest of the neighborhood. Even if you cannot actually perform work, come anyhow and lend your support. Get your family, neighbors and friends involved and take a bite out of litter. The raindate is the following Saturday, July 3rd. This is a great opportunity to do something beneficial for our area.

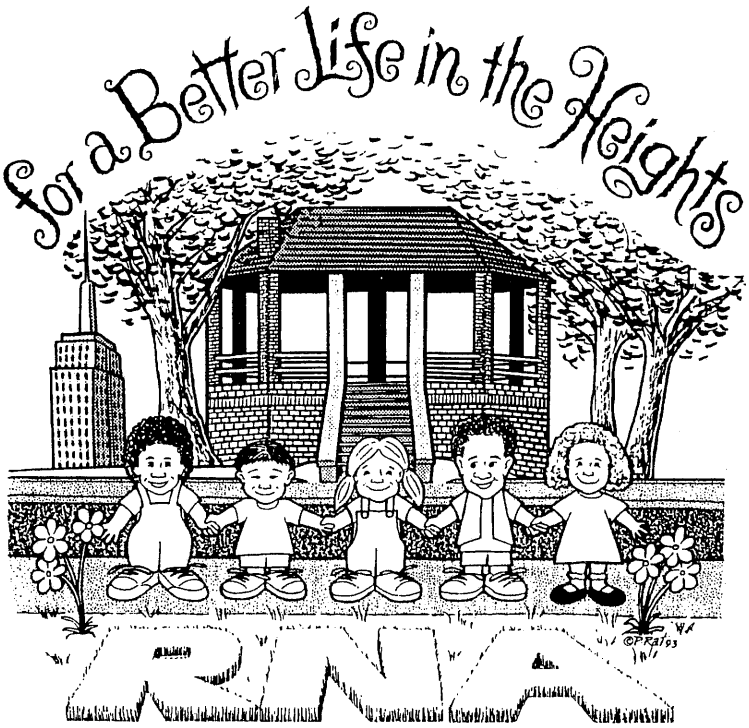
Ernest Quintero, Chair

Looking for Summer Recipes

RNA publishes two abbreviated editions of the newsletter during the summer months of July and August. We would like to print your favorite summer recipes for food and drinks. Foods can range from salads to barbecue dishes. Beverages should not be alcoholic. Send in whatever you think your neighbors would enjoy trying on a nice day at the beach or in the backyard. **By**

MEETING MINUTES

The May meeting was primarily taken up with the issue of the new RNA T-shirts. Our discussion included the specific design of the shirt to using the shirts for raising neighborhood awareness. The drawing below is the design chosen by the membership.



(continued on page three)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 8th AT 7:15 PM

AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE THE :

1) THE FLEA MARKET on June 12th

2) SUMMER CLEAN-UP DAY on June 26th

THE RNA NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

RNA has decided to return to tradition and hold its Ninth Annual Flea Market in the spring this year. The organizing committee has promised that this Flea Market is going to be the best ever! It is scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th at Riverview-Fiske Park from 9 am to 4 pm.** Our raindate is Saturday, June 19th.

Anyone who has been to our past flea markets can tell you its a time to browse and shop, and perhaps sell some of the unwanted items you have around your home. But most of all, the flea market is a chance for all of us as neighbors to be together and enjoy our neighborhood park.

As always, RNA will have a table at the flea market. You can help by donating anything you have around the house that you no longer need or want. (No spouses or significant others accepted!) Lamps, picture frames, dishes, knick-knacks, anything! Just take a look around and see if you've got anything to spare. We only ask the items be in good condition. You can bring the items to the park the morning of the flea market. The money we raise goes into the RNA treasury to fund projects and newsletter costs.

This year RNA has decided to provide **SPACE ONLY** for the merchants and sellers. If you are a RNA member you can reserve a space for $10.00. Non-members can reserve space for $15.00. (See attached application.)

Other perennial favorites will be at this year's flea market- hot dogs, baked goods, meatball sandwiches, coffee tea, and soda! You can have your children fingerprinted for free, or let them play with Roll-off and McGruff. You can even take a chance on a 50/50 raffle.

We'll have something for everyone, so come join us in Riverview-Fiske Park JUNE 12th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It takes a lot of work to organize and run the FLEA MARKET. You can help:

--CLEAN-UP THE PARK BEFORE & AFTER EVENT
--PICK-UP, SET-UP, BREAK-DOWN, AND RETURN THE TABLES
--WORK AT THE RNA TABLE
--SELL HOT DOGS, BEVERAGES, AND BAKED GOODS
--PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET

CALL ERNEST QUINTERO AT
963-5608

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY,JUNE 12TH
TIME: 9 AM TO 4PM

LOCATION:
RIVERVIEW-FISKE PARK

(RAINDATE JUNE 19TH)

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

PRICES FOR SPACE ONLY:

1) RNA MEMBERS: **$10.00**
2) NON-MEMBERS: **$15.00**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 963-5608

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Cut out this application and send to **Ernest Quintero, 187 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307**
Attn: Flea Market

Meeting Minutes (continued from page one)

The membership agreed that the T-shirts are not intended to be a lucrative, profit-making venture as much as they should foster a sense of neighborhood comradery - to be a symbol of unity. However, several suggestions were made if there were a profit made from the selling of these shirts. RNA could start some sort of ecological awareness program for the younger kids in the community. Russell Pratt, who also designed the shirts, proposed that they be used as part of a new membership drive through which the T-shirts would be presented as an incentive to join RNA.

It was also suggested that a percentage of the T-shirts be printed in Spanish, as well as English. It was hoped that this gesture would send a message to our Hispanic neighbors that they are also part of this community and they are welcome and should become involved in RNA.

Russell put together two wonderful designs for the T-shirts which he presented at the meeting. The members voted unanimously on one design depicting five children of various ethnicities standing in front of our Park's pavilion and the skyline in the background with "RNA" sculpted in the grass in the foreground. The T-shirts reads "For a Better Life in the Heights" on top and "Riverview Neighborhood Association" below. It will be printed in four colors. It's beautiful and everyone immediately fell in love with the design.

After a lengthy discussion, the group voted on the specifics of the project. It was decided to initially print 72 shirts in the four colors. The cost of the all-cotton shirts and the silkscreen would be $522.80. The shirts will be sold for $8.00 (seventy-four cents above the cost). The first order will be 54 in English and 18 in Spanish. (There will be additional orders as the demands warrants.) It was decided that the best place to sell these shirts would be at the RNA flea market on June 12th.

In other RNA business, there was a discussion about the long-sought after meeting with postal representatives concerning the lack of consistent, reliable mail delivery in our neighborhood. The meeting, held on May 6th, proved to be productive. Frank Barone, Postmaster of Jersey City, Mike Giordana, manager of the Hudson City branch (located on Central Avenue) and Bob Casapulla, Customer Service Support Manager from the Newark Post Office attended the meeting.

There was a positive tone to the meeting. RNA members gave complaints and received valid explanations and solutions that are or will be implemented to improve our service. Part of the problem seems to stem from the fact that when Karen, our regular mailperson has days off, she is replaced by temporary fill-ins that are not familiar with the route.

The postal representatives also recommended several suggestions to improve the mail service. In an effort to reduce the long lines at the post office, stamps can now be purchased either through the mail or by telephone. The post office supplies envelopes for ordering the stamps at no additional charge to the home or office. (Order forms are available at the post office or at the RNA meetings.) Stamps can also be ordered by telephone using 1-800-STAMP-24. Certain ATM bank machines will also supply stamps. Although the postal service doesn't have the funds to make fundamental changes in the organization, they do have over $100,000. to spend for cosmetic improvements.

People are encouraged to give their mail to the carriers as opposed to using the corner boxes, because of mailbox vandalism. Also improvements in efficiency should be noticed in the not too distant future as the result of computer automation being implemented.

Several Jersey City projects were discussed, including the proposed county incinerator, the proposed golf course for Liberty State Park and the proposed enclosed, ice skating rink in Pershing Field. As for the county incinerator, the group voted that RNA take a position against the project. It was agreed to send a letter to the County informing them of our position. Discussion about the skating rink centered about the fact that it would incroach on the open space in Pershing Field and there was no provisions for spectator seating. The group voted against the rink project.

The meeting ended with our usual coffee and cake refreshments. The next meeting is June 8th, starting at 7:15 PM at the Harbor View, on Ogden and Franklin. We hope to see you there.

Suzanne Maroon, Secretary

In Memoriam

RNA extends its sympathy to the family of Janet Moore who died on May 14, 1993. Janet was one of the truly dedicated community activists in the Heights who cared about the local neighborhoods and worked to improve the quality of life for everybody.

Among her many projects was the idea to preserve the property at the corner of Ogden Avenue and Cuneo Place as a municipal park because of the lack of the open space in Ward C. She was also one of the first people to alert our community about the need for a community-supported master plan for the future use of the reservoir properties.

She was a tireless worker and will be truly missed in the Heights.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ELECTION WINNERS

RNA would like to congratulate the winners of the May 11th municipal election. We wish Mayor Bret Schundler and his entire team the best of luck in carrying out their proposed platform of lowering property taxes, improving public safety and creating more jobs. RNA also extends best wishes to our local council winners: Tom DeGise as council-at-large, Bill Gaughan as Council for Ward D and Nancy Gaynor as Council for Ward C.

RNA pledges to work with these newly-elected officials to try and solve the problems that confront Jersey City. They were elected because of their promises of reform: to stop playing local politics and improve our quality of life.

It is also time that these officials acknowledge that our local community has many problems, including the plague of drugs, vandalism and crime, building violations due to slum landlords, and inadequate City services and maintenance. We also have many needs, including the reopening of Mountain Road, better police presence and patrolling through our local streets and the completion of the renovation for Riverview-Fiske Park.

We ask that Mayor Schundler and Councilpersons Gaynor, Gaughan, and DeGise accept our invitation to come to our meetings and listen to our concerns and fears. We are willing to work with them to make our neighborhood a better place to live for everybody.

NEW POLICE CAPTAIN IN THE NORTH DISTRICT

Thomas Kane is the new police captain in charge of the North District. He is taking over for James Shamburg, who was transferred back to police headquarters. Captain Kane is interested in learning about the problems in our community and has been invited to come to our meetings, to discuss them first-hand. During the week, he can be reached in his office at 547-5352.

RNA wishes the best to Captain Shamberg and thanks him for his leadership.

CONRAD'S CORNER

When the early Christians were being persecuted, they worshipped in the catacombs of Rome until they became strong and were able to build their first early Christian churches. So it was with Ascension Church on South Street and New York Avenue when it burned down about six years ago, except that they had enough funds of their own to rebuild a new church. But Bishop Spong seized the funds and would not give them back to the Church, which outraged the congregation.

The congregation was able to raise enough funding again to do over the basement. It was just as if Christ was watching and helping them. But then the Bishop sent an emissary with instructions to close the Church and tear it down. The members of the congregation thought this was like the work of the devil because it was hard to comprehend why the diocese would do this after they worked so hard to rebuild their own Church.

Have Episcopalians become a commercial venture with Christ Hospital's one mile of private property for parking and charging for it without paying taxes? In the meantime, they tore down a lot of housing which had been paying taxes to the City.

The Episcopal Church, it seems, is no longer a religious institution but a profitable commercial venture. In that case it should no longer operate as a tax free religious organization and it should pay taxes as any other private company does.

The funds taken away from Ascension Church were enough to buy up some more houses along Palisade Avenue for Christ Hospital which no longer pays taxes to Jersey City for those properties. As Christ Hospital acquires more property along the Avenue without paying taxes, it is the Jersey City homeowners who will make up the difference with an increase in their own taxes.

Now maybe we had better give up having separation of Church and State before the clergy get rid of all our historic sites. They saw this thing coming up in Germany long ago and had the state take over the churches as historic sites before the clergy got rid of any churches no longer profitable. We had better do the same thing in our country if we want to save all our beautiful historic sites.

May 19, 1993

FRAN REMEMBERS:

Doing the Laundry

I have often wondered if you young people ever thought how laundry was done in the 1920's, 30's, and early part of the 40's. I shall try to tell you what it was like in our home, and practically all middle class homes during that time, when wash day came around. We were nine people with six beds. We also had a baby, but her wash was done separately.

The weather was the most important item discussed when planning wash day. My mother and grandma waited until Sunday night to decide what day this important duty was to be done. We had no weather forecasters - maybe they waited to see what the newspapers predicted, but it was mostly decided by the look of the skies overhead. If they decided that Monday was going to be a fairly good day, Sunday night was very busy for grandma - she sorted just like we do, only in those days colored items were not as good as they are today because the dyes were inferior. How many times I heard mother and grandma complaining about some item of clothing that "ran" (so they called it then).

Getting back to the wash, we had a large kitchen, dining room and a wash room located at the back of the house. The white clothes were put in a large galvanized oval tub, which was filled with water and placed on a coal stove in the kitchen. This stove had to produce a lot of heat because it it to boil the water to "loosen the dirt." To this water, they added octagon soap powder, or another popular product, Kirkman soap, which some people preferred in those days. Grandma also saved all the pieces of discarded soap which were too small for personal bathing and shaved them into smaller pieces and put them in the tub.

While the clothes were being cooked, they were swished around every now and then with a stick. This stick was called a wash stick, and the women always asked my papa to make a new stick for them from an old broom handle. This stick had to be a certain length, about two and half feet. When it was decided that the clothes had cooked enough, some items were picked up with the wash stick and put into a smaller pan and passed through an open window between the kitchen and the wash room.

My mother, in the wash room, dropped this small load of clothing into a tub with some cooler water and proceeded to wash them with a wash board. When she decided that the piece was clean, she dropped it into another tub next to her. Maybe I am not making myself clear, but in all the homes at that time, there were double tubs - some were located in kitchens or like our family in the wash room. These tubs had a partition between them which could be easily removed and then used by the family for bathing, it you were not so fortunate to have a bathroom. At that time, families who did not have a bathroom shared a toilet with the family living next door. Before you used this toilet you had to make sure it was not occupied. The door had a little hook on the inside where you could lock yourself in when using the facilities. The water closet was above the toilet and you

pulled the chain to flush the water. So much for the toilets.

Let's get back to the wash. After mother washed an item, she dropped it into the next tub and grandma would wring it out and put it into pans (imagine how many pans were used for washing). After the tub was empty, mother would refill it with cold water and swish some blueing agents into it, to make the clothes whiter and not to have a yellow look. This blueing agent was bought in the neighborhood A & P. You used one small gauze ball of blueing with an extra piece of gauze string, which you would hold to swish it around in the water. Only an experienced person would do this because you had to know exactly how many swishes to make. The white wash was put into this blueing water and then rinsed by hand and put into separate pans for shirts, towels, sheets, etc. I forgot to mention there was a little wringer attached to the section in between the tubs which was used to wring large items like sheets. The older women wore silk underwear which had to be washed by hand.

The water which was used for boiling the clothes was saved for scrub water - mops were unheard of in our home. There were one or two laundry services at that time and if mother or grandma was sick, they used this service. The clothes came back wet and all you had to do was hang it out on the line to dry. They also had a service that was called flat wash which washed and dried the flat items.

Getting back to the wash, shirt collars and cuffs had to be starched. The starch was called Argo Starch and had to be prepared exactly right, not too heavy and not too light. You added anti-stick to the starch which was also bought in the grocery store.

The wash was now ready to be hung on the lines in the backyard. The line had to be wiped and you had to make sure the pullies were just right and the line was not too tight. Sometimes after hanging out the whole wash, the line would break. (I just can't go through that problem or I would be typing all day.) Some people ripped up old sheets and made strips to be used when hanging wash so the line would not mark the items which were hung out to dry.

What a beautiful sight to see all the wash hanging in the back yard drying. The women prided themselves to have white clothes blowing in the breeze. Imagine what it was like when it was cold and the clothes were frozen and had to be carried in. What a confusion! What beautiful memories all this washing brings back to me. There was such an odor in the basement on wash day which I can smell to this day.

I hope I haven't bored you with my wash story. When you girls, or boys, use your washing machines to do your laundry and when you put the finished wash into a dryer, try to remember what it was like when grandma did the laundry.

Frances Santoro

JUNE

Hurray! June is here,
School closing and graduation.
No more books till September,
Swimming, barbecues and
Don't forget the RNA FLEA MARKET on June 12th!

Madeline Tuzzo Rea

REMEMBERING

I remember when I was young, growing up in Hoboken. My friends and I thought Jersey City was so far away and Ogden Avenue was so beautiful and tree lined. The kids on Ogden Avenue were our enemies and we had many rock throwing and arguing incidents with the Hillers, as we called them.

But most of all I remember going swimming at the North Street pool, if we had the money. On Saturdays my friends and I packed a lunch and told our mothers we were going on a long hike (climbing the hill of the Palisades). For us it was quite an experience. Once we reached the top, there was a large boulder near the viaduct, which we climbed to the top and had our lunch. We had accomplished a big feat.

Jack Rea

RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE AND DISPOSALS - IT'S THE LAW!

DON'T BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG!

A & P and the New York Times are starting a recycling effort in our neighborhood. They are collecting the blue plastic bags in which the Times are delivered. You can recycle these bags by bringing them to the A&P store on Palisade Avenue. Just drop the blue Times bags in the specially designed recycling bins.

1993 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's not to late to pay your annual RNA membership dues of $5.00 per person. Membership entitles you to full participation and voting rights in RNA. You will also receive the nine issues of our newsletter.

Bring your dues in person to the next meeting, or mail a check, made out to Riverview Neighborhood Association, to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey, 07307.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Drop off contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTERS."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Hank Cesari, Ted Conrad, Suzanne Maroon, Margaret McCorry, Ernest Quintero, Madeline Tuzzo Rea, Jack Rea, Frances Santoro, Maria Tuzzo
CIRCULATION: Mrs. Tuzzo, Jack Rea
ART WORK: Raquel Sweeney , Russell Pratt

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: December 12, 1992

Riverview Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood Clean Up Day

for a Better Life in the Heights

Sat. June 26th, 93

JERSEY CITY CLEAN COMMUNITIES

for information contact:

Ernest Quintero
963-5608

Russell Pratt
222-2887

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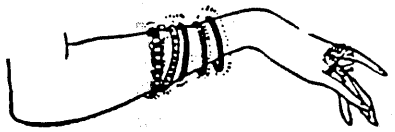

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON
TUESDAY, JUNE 8TH at 7:15 PM

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Historical Advisor

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ENVIRONMENT

FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

RNA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR ITS ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

Final Plans are being made for RNA's Ninth Annual Flea Market in Riverview-Fiske Park. The event will be held on Saturday, June 12th from 9 AM to 4 PM. (The raindate will be the following Saturday, June 19th.) It is a large undertaking and requires many volunteers. Please come to the next RNA meeting on June 8th if you can help organize this event, or even if you just have some suggestions for its success. We need your help!

RNA SUMMER CLEAN-UP TO BE HELD ON JUNE 26th

RNA is gearing up for its next neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, June 26th at 9 AM. There will be a main volunteer effort to clean-up Palisade Avenue starting at 9 AM. There will also be four dumpsters on Ferry Street, Franklin Street, South Street and Hobson Street for all residents to discard their house or garden garbage. Please no commercial refuse. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!